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Social Life at Rome in the Age of Cicero. By W. WARDE FOWLER.
New York: Macmillan, 1909. Pp. xiii+362. \$2.25.

Strangely enough in writing their sketches of Roman life English scholars have reversed the chronological order. Dill's *Roman Society in the Last Century of the Western Empire* was followed by his treatment of the period from Nero to Marcus Aurelius, and is now supplemented in Fowler's work by a discussion of the same topic for the Late Republic. Our main need now in English is an adequate account of social conditions under the Early Empire. The eleven chapters of this latest addition to the series deal with "The Topography of Rome," "The Lower Population," "The Men of Business and Their Methods," "The Governing Aristocracy," "Marriage and the Roman Lady," "The Education of the Upper Classes," "The Slave Population," "The House of the Rich Man in Town and Country," "The Daily Life of the Well-to-do," "Holidays and Public Amusements," and "Religion." The several chapters are essentially independent essays upon the topics which they treat, and begin in many cases with a brief historical introduction of the subject. The work is admirably done, and the book will be of lively interest both to the general reader and to the special student of Roman life.

The main criticism which one is inclined to make of it is that it deals almost exclusively with the upper classes. In the one chapter which has to do with the masses, the author speaks of the difficulty which we experience in understanding their conditions, because "we hear hardly anything of them in the literature of the time" (p. 43). Why did he not take the inscriptions into account, which furnish an inexhaustible fund of information concerning these very people? It is true that there are not many inscriptions of the Republican period, but from those of the Early Empire many interesting conclusions could have been safely drawn, because the life of the common people did not change radically during the century which immediately followed the death of Cicero. This source of information has been drawn upon slightly in one case, in dealing with the *collegia*, but could have been used to advantage elsewhere. It might have led the author, for instance, to modify the views which he expresses on "Religion" in chap. xi (cf. Harkness, "The Scepticism and Fatalism of the Common People of Rome as Illustrated by the Sepulchral Inscriptions," *T. A. P. A.*, XXX, pp. 56-89). It is strange too that little or no use seems to have been made of Catullus.

Fowler properly leaves politics out of consideration, but something should have been said of the close connection which existed during this period between society and politics, of the large part which women played in politics, and of the effect upon them and upon social conditions of their indirect participation in public affairs. Servilia, Tertulla, Porcia, Hortensia, and Fulvia are too characteristic of the period to be passed over without mention. Footnotes are sparingly used, as is proper in a book of this sort, but now and then one would like to know the authority on which a conclusion is based; to know, for instance,

whether the statement that "every highly educated man at this time owned a library" finds sufficient support in the literature of the time, or rests upon general probability.

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Buried Herculaneum. By ETHEL ROSS BARKER. London: A. & C. Black, 1908. Pp. vii + 254, with 9 plans and 64 illustrations. \$3.00.

"The aim of this book is to give an account of past excavations at Herculaneum: to describe, as they once were, those buildings that have been stripped of their treasures left in ruins, and reburied; and to connect with the buildings where they originally stood, the bronzes and marbles now in the museum at Naples."

After very brief chapters on the life, history, excavation, and plan of the ancient city, the author treats individual ruins: theater, basilica, temples, House of the Papyri, and other dwellings. Then follow accounts of sculpture, frescoes, statues and furniture, and inscriptions, with appendices containing bibliographies of the most important works on Herculaneum and its various classes of monuments, and, finally, catalogues of the bronzes, marbles, and frescoes, giving date of discovery of each, position when found, reference to reproductions in the present work and in Comparetti and Di Petra, and numerical designation in the Naples Museum. The interest is greatest in the parts treating of the House of the Papyri and its treasures: the 90 statues and busts and the 1,086 whole and fragmentary written works, attempts to unroll and decipher only a fifth of which cost a total of £80,000 from 1754 to 1876.

The purpose of the book as set forth in the preface is literally realized. There is little controversy in it; the material presented is so compact as to seem almost like a series of outlines or lecture-notes; the style is so inelastic and plain that the reader is surprised when he happens on the two or three little bursts in the nature of ornament; and the author is so intent on a concrete presentation of the subject as even to be guilty of a grammatical nod or two: "we have about some half-dozen frescoes;" "the laments of Pliny and Petronius *was*." Brevity, lucidity, and rapidity, however, save the work from dullness, and its conclusions seem to be based on adequate study.

For those who wish in concise and convenient form the pertinent facts regarding the excavation of Herculaneum and the character and present location of its treasures, *Buried Herculaneum* will prove serviceable. It is neither so well written nor so entertaining as Waldstein, the only other modern work on the subject, but is more unified and less extravagant, and is to be preferred as an introduction to a somewhat neglected subject. It is bound in blue and gold, with gilt top, the paper is fair, and the illustrations, mostly reproductions of Brogi and Alinari photographs, are good. The type is large, and the whole 195 pages of the body of the book may be read in two or three hours.

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